

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 25 and ending on page 18, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

As shown in FIG. 8, the outer tube 3 comprises a distal end side outer tube 3a and a main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b bonded to each other. The distal end portion of the main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b constitutes an insertion portion 3c having an outer diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of the distal end side outer tube 3a. The insertion portion 3c is inserted into the proximal end portion of the distal end side outer tube 3a. Further, as shown in FIG. 1, the distal end side outer tube 3a is tapered into a small diameter on the side of the distal end relative to the bonded portion with the main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b. A slit 7 is formed spirally in the insertion portion 3c of the main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b. The slit 7 extends from the distal end or a position slightly rearward of the distal end of the insertion portion 3c to reach a position slightly forward of the proximal end of the insertion portion 3c. A region in which the slit 7 is not formed is included in the proximal end portion of the insertion portion 3c. The distal end side outer tube 3a and the main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b are fixed in the region in which the slit 7 is not formed, and the distal end side outer tube 3a and the main section side outer tube ~~3a~~ 3b are not fixed in the slit-forming region. If the particular slit 7 is formed, the bonded portion is made flexible so as to permit the distal end portion of the main section side outer tube 3b to be bent more naturally. As a result, the operability of the catheter is more improved. Incidentally, it is possible to form a large number of fine holes in place of the slit 7.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 3 with the following amended paragraph.

As shown in FIG. 9, the inner tube 2 comprises a tapered portion in a position slightly rearward of the bonded portion between the distal end side outer tube 3a and the main section side outer tube 3a 3b. The distal end portion of the inner tube 2 ~~relatively~~ relative to the tapered portion has a small diameter and the portion on the side of the main section has a diameter larger than that on the side of the distal end.